

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Groups and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Bill Bagdon

DATE: July 30, 1998

RE: A Global Measure of Access to Mental Health Services in Vermont

The attached graphs and table present the results of an analysis of access to community mental health services by adults in Vermont during 1985 through 1997. This global measure uses an approach reported in the Journal of Mental Health Administration last summer.¹

The measure is the number of people served by Adult Outpatient and Community Rehabilitation and Treatment programs as a proportion of the estimated prevalence of "serious mental illness" in each of Vermont's ten service areas. Estimates of the prevalence of serious mental illness are obtained from Kessler². This includes adults 18 years of age and older who, at any time during a given year, had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that met the criteria of DSM III-R and that resulted in functional impairment which substantially interfered with or limited one or more major life activities. Substance abuse disorders and developmental disorders are excluded from this definition. The estimates are based on demographic, economic, and other social characteristics of the service areas that are known to be associated with the prevalence of severe mental illness.

¹ A Global Measure of Access to Mental Health Services for a Managed Care Environment. The Journal of Mental Health Administration. Vol24, #3, summer 1997. John A. Pandiani, Steven M. Banks, and Lisa Gauvin.

² Estimation of the 12-month Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness. Unpublished document, 1996. Ronald C. Kessler, et. al.

July 30, 1998
Page Two

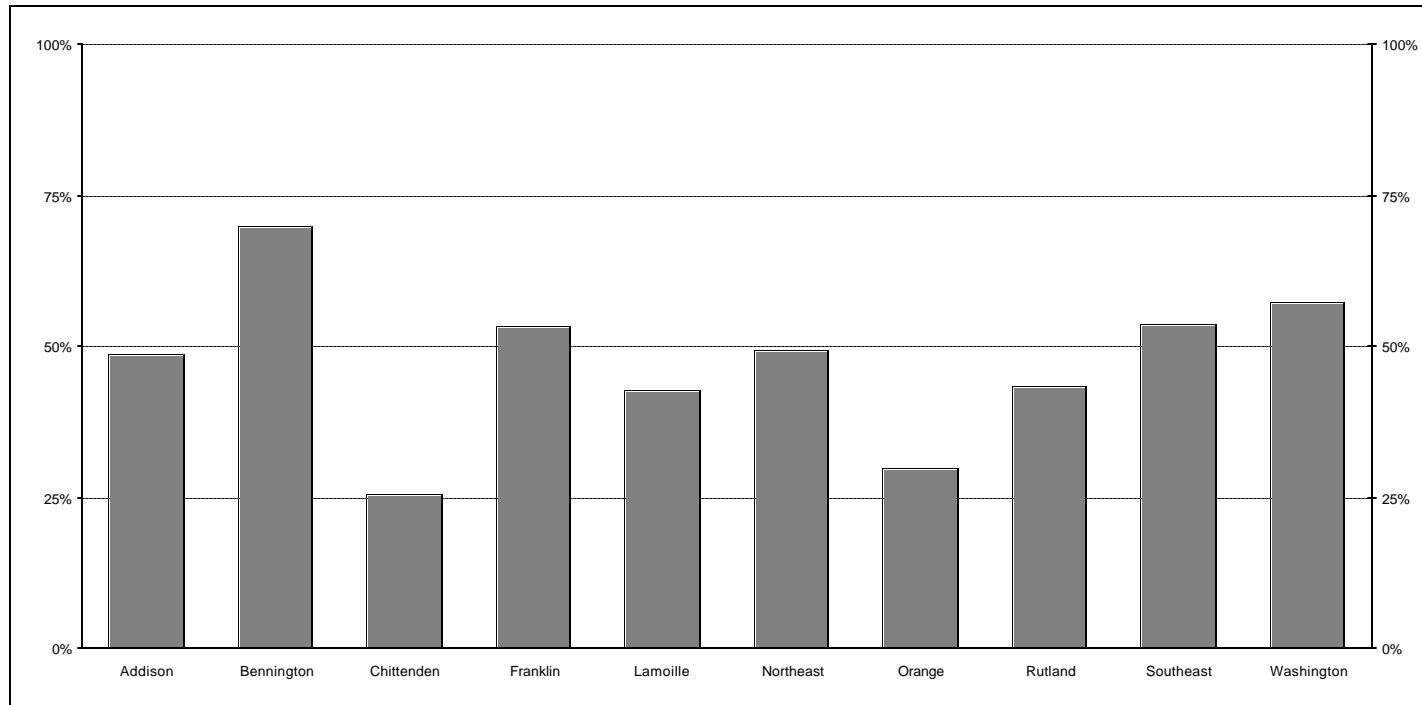
As you will see, the Chittenden county region consistently has the lowest access to community mental health services. Bennington has had the most access (as measured here) for the past two years.

If you would like a copy of the article on the global measure of access or a copy of Kessler's paper, please call Pam Mack (241-2639).

I look forward to your comments about this measure of access to care and your interpretation of the results. Please send e-mail to pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us, or give one of us a call.

A GLOBAL MEASURE OF ACCESS TO CARE

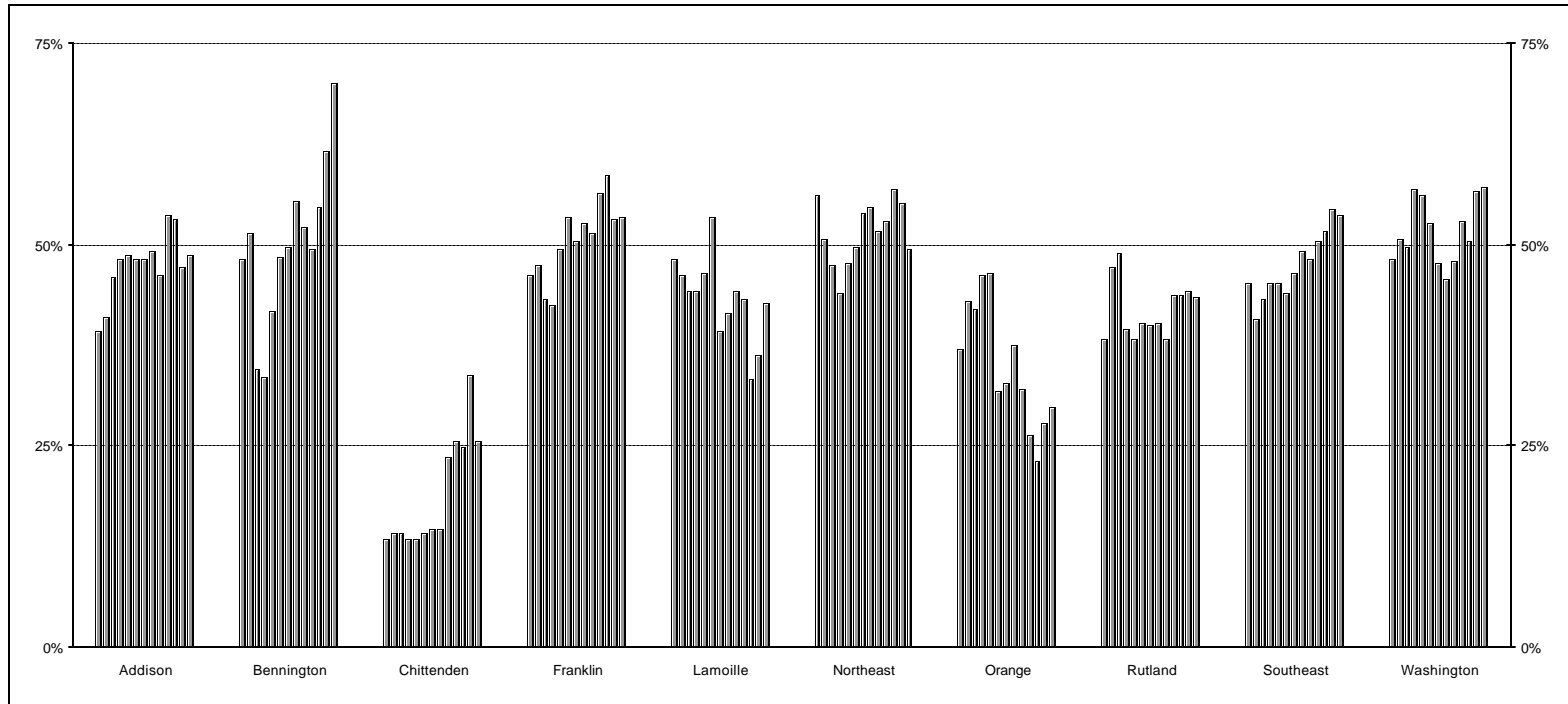
People Served by Adult Mental Health Programs
As a % of Adults with Serious Mental Illness Vermont: FY1997



Region	Total Population	Serious Mental Illness		Clients Served	
		Estimated Rate	People	#	% of People w/ SMI
Addison	26,822	5.9%	1,582	772	49%
Bennington	26,801	5.2%	1,394	975	70%
Chittenden	111,617	6.9%	7,702	1,966	26%
Franklin	35,242	5.5%	1,938	1,035	53%
Lamoille	16,543	5.9%	976	417	43%
Northeast	44,465	5.1%	2,268	1,122	49%
Orange	25,467	5.3%	1,350	402	30%
Rutland	47,768	5.3%	2,532	1,101	43%
Southeast	67,619	5.4%	3,651	1,955	54%
Washington	43,513	5.6%	2,437	1,394	57%

Percent served is (Total Number Served) / (Estimated Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness). The number of clients is obtained from Quarterly Service Reports (QSR) submitted by Vermont's community service providers. Estimates of the number of people with serious mental illness are based on procedures recommended by Kessler (Federal Register, Vol 62 #60 March 28, 1997, pp. 14928 - 14936). Population figures include adults 18 years and older. The population figures for 1996 and 1997 are projections.

**PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS
WHO WERE SERVED BY ADULT MENTAL HEALTH OUTPATIENT
OR COMMUNITY REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS
BY REGION: FY1985 - FY1997**



	Statewide	Addison	Bennington	Chittenden	Franklin	Lamoille	Northeast	Orange	Rutland	Southeast	Washington
FY1997	43%	49%	70%	26%	53%	43%	49%	30%	43%	54%	57%
FY1996	45%	47%	62%	34%	53%	36%	55%	28%	44%	54%	57%
FY1995	42%	53%	55%	25%	59%	33%	57%	23%	44%	52%	51%
FY1994	42%	54%	50%	25%	56%	43%	53%	26%	44%	50%	53%
FY1993	40%	46%	52%	24%	51%	44%	52%	32%	38%	48%	48%
FY1992	38%	49%	55%	15%	53%	41%	55%	37%	40%	49%	46%
FY1991	37%	48%	50%	15%	50%	39%	54%	33%	40%	46%	48%
FY1990	37%	48%	48%	14%	53%	53%	50%	32%	40%	44%	53%
FY1989	37%	49%	42%	13%	49%	46%	48%	46%	38%	45%	56%
FY1988	36%	48%	34%	13%	42%	44%	44%	46%	39%	45%	57%
FY1987	36%	46%	34%	14%	43%	44%	47%	42%	49%	43%	50%
FY1986	37%	41%	51%	14%	48%	46%	51%	43%	47%	41%	51%
FY1985	36%	39%	48%	14%	46%	48%	56%	37%	38%	45%	48%

Percent served is (Total Number Served) / (Estimated Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness). The number of clients is obtained from Quarterly Service Reports (QSR) submitted by Vermont's community service providers.

Estimates of the number of people with serious mental illness are based on procedures recommended by Kessler (Federal Register, Vol 62 #60 March 28, 1997, pp. 14928 - 14936).

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